

# IMPROVED NUCLEAR DEVICES DISASTER RESPONSE

## **Background:**

An Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) is homemade or makeshift weapon that explodes, releasing nuclear radiation—this is the radiation that happens when atoms split apart. An IND can be small enough to fit in a suitcase, which is why it is sometimes called a “suitcase bomb”.

| <b>Impact:</b>  | <b>Treatment:</b>   |
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| <p>An IND, despite how small it can be, can cause a lot of destruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The blast and following extreme heat can cause deaths and destroy buildings and other property.</li><li>• A significant amount of radiation can be left behind, making entire areas unusable and increasing peoples’ risk of developing cancer.</li><li>• Nuclear fallout—particles of radiation that can be carried by wind to areas far away from the blast site— can contaminate residents of other cities, water supplies, and food supplies depending on the size of the bomb and the wind speeds.</li></ul> | <p>If you were exposed to a large amount of nuclear radiation and are suffering from radiation sickness, your symptoms will be treated with supportive care. There are medicines that can help treat radiation sickness. A medical professional will be able to help decide on the best treatment for you. The first step in treating nuclear radiation exposure is to get rid of radiation particles by decontaminating. Those further injured by an IND explosion will be treated by those responding to the scene or they will be sent to local hospitals. Injuries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burns</li><li>• Wounds</li><li>• Fractures</li><li>• Bleeding</li></ul> |

## **When there is an improvised Nuclear Device Explosion:**

### **If Indoors**

If you were indoors during the explosion, and your building was not damaged, stay inside until officials tell you it is safe to leave.

- Close all doors, windows, and vents.
- Turn off all heating and air conditioning and other systems that bring in air from outdoors.
- Stay in an interior room—one without windows.
- Have a battery-powered radio and extra batteries so you can listen for further instructions.

### **If Outdoors**

If you were outdoors during the explosion, leave the area immediately. Once you are safe, follow decontamination steps to get rid of radiation particles on your clothes and body:

- Take off clothes and jewelry.
- To prevent further exposure to the eyes, nose and skin, cut off clothes that would be pulled over your head.
- If possible, place clothes in a plastic bag, and seal this bag in another plastic bag.
- Wash your hands, body, and hair with lots of cold water.
- Rinse irritated eyes for 10-15 minutes with cold water.
- Take out eye contacts and throw them away.
- Wash eye glasses with soap and water.

